



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231  
www.uspto.gov

#4  
**MAILED**

**FEB 25 2002**

Office of the Director  
Group 3600

Del Christensen  
Shell Oil Company  
P. O. Box 2463  
Houston, TX 77252-2463

In re Application of  
Harold J. Vinegar, Et. Al.  
SERIAL NO: 09/841,284  
FILED: April 24, 2001  
FOR: IN SITU THERMAL PROCESSING  
OF A COAL FORMATION TO  
INCREASE A PERMEABILITY /POROSITY  
OF THE FORMATION

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE APPLICATION  
SPECIAL (AGE)


This is a decision on your petition submitted on January 22, 2002, to make the above-referenced application special on the basis that applicant is over 65 years of age.

The petition has been found to comply with all requirements of section 708.02, part IV of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures, and will be **GRANTED** for that reason.

The Examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examiner such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, through out its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for accelerated examination consistent with the provisions of section 708.02 of the MPEP.

  
Steven N. Meyers  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600  
(703) 308-3868  
Rjb-2/21/02